



Loudoun County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency
Management
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN



Subject: Signature Requirements on the
Electronic Patient Care Report

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Approved:


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Last year, the Drug Enforcement Administration published a ruling entitled "Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances." It became effective June 1, 2010. The use of electronic signatures on patient care reports and other documents must meet these new DEA requirements. This requirement affects personnel who are using ToughBooks and obtaining electronic signatures on the electronic patient care report (ePCR).

When controlled medications are administered (i.e. from the narcotics pouch), an electronic signature is not permitted on the ePCR printed copy to replace the narcotics. Instead, the ePCR must be printed out and physically signed by the emergency department physician for replacement of the narcotics. After this copy is printed for replacement of the narcotics, the physician may sign the ePCR electronically.

For personnel who are using a paper patient care report (PPCR), there is no change in the procedure to obtain a signature for the use of narcotics. The pharmacy copy with the physician signature is required for the replacement of narcotics.